

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A technique is provided for identifying the write protect status of a removable storage media, such as a computer diskette, prior to normal interaction with the media. The present technique interacts with the removable storage media and identifies the write protect status as write protected if the interaction produces a failure code indicative of write protection. For example, data storage may be attempted at a non-storage location, thereby producing a write protect error if the media is write protected or an invalid write error if the media is not write protected. Alternatively, the present technique may attempt to read and rewrite data back to the media, thereby producing the write protect error if the media is write protected.

CONFIDENTIAL